

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5028

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 1433

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS SF

SUBJECT: SOWETO WORK BOYCOTT

1. AT CLOSE OF SECOND DAY (AUGUST 24) OF WORK BOYCOTT
IN LATE AFTERNOON, ABOUT 1,500 ZULU MALES LIVING
IN SOWETO HOSTELS BANDED TOGETHER IN WAR-LIKE IMPI
AND RAMPAGED THROUGH ORLANDO WEST AND MEADOWLANDS,
BREAKING INTO AND BURNING AS MANY AS FIFTY HOMES
AND ATTACKING HOUSEHOLDERS AND "CHEEKY CHILDREN"
WITH STICKS AND KNOBKERRIES. UNCONFIRMED
REPORT THAT SIX PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN RAMPAGE AND
ONE HUNDRED INJURED. FIGHTING, BETWEEN THESE
ZULUS, WHO HAVE LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR BOYCOTT, AND
OTHER SOWETO RESIDENTS WAS CONTINUING LATE LAST
NIGHT. ONE REPORT WAS THAT ZULU IMPI WAS EN-
COURAGED BY POLICE, WHO ALLEGEDLY SENT BLACK AGENTS
TO HOSTELS TO INCITE ACTION AGAINST BOYCOTT
LEADES AND SYMPATHIZERS. POLICE COMMISSIONER
PRINSLOO SAID LAST NIGHT, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT
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BELIEVE HIS FORCES WOULD HAVE TAKEN SIDES. "I HAVE

NO KNOWLEDGE OF THESE RAMPAGING ZULUS, BUT IF IT DID HAPPEN I'M NOT SURPRISED. IF PEOPLE WANT TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES INTO RESISTING THE TSOTSIS, WE CAN'T STOP THEM. BUT NEITHER CAN WE ALLOW RIOTING." ANOTHER REPORT WAS THAT ZULU ATTACK ON POLITICAL ACTIVISTS HAD SUPPORT OF CONSERVATIVE COMMITTEE OF THIRTY, WHICH INCLUDES SOME UBC MEMBERS, WHICH REPORTEDLY HAD NEGOTIATED WITH POLICE MINISTER KRUGER AND AGREED TO ATTEMPT RESTORE ORDER IN SOWETO IN RETURN FOR HIS REOPENING OF SCHOOLS AND MAKING OTHER CONCESSIONS.

2. ALSO LAST NIGHT, SIX-COACH SOWETO COMMUTER TRAIN WAS DERAILED BY OBSTRUCTION PLACED ON TRACK. THIS FACTOR BECAME THIRD ON LIST OF REASONS SOWETO RESIDENTS HAD FOR CONTINUING TO OBSERVE BOYCOTT (IN ORDER OF PRIORITY): INTIMIDATION, SYMPATHY FOR CAUSE, AND TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES.

3. ATTENDANCE AT WORK TODAY (AUGUST 25) CONTINUED TO INCREASE SLOWLY THROUGHOUT JOHANNESBURG. ANGLO-AMERICAN REPORTED 69 PERCENT ATTENDANCE, HIGHER THAN OTHERS AVERAGING LESS THAN FIFTY PERCENT. THOSE OFFICES AND FACTORIES WHICH HAVE WEDNESDAY PAY-DAYS ARE EXPERIENCING HIGHER ATTENDANCE RATES. CONGEN'S SIX BLACK EMPLOYEES STILL ABSENT.
JOHNSON

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